SPAWN
BARBERI
McCONVILLE
RAMOS
NUNES
image
339
DIGITAL EDITION

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WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 23

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SPAWN CREATED BY
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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

We see Nyx's journey from the afterlife to her rebirth as the Scion of Greenworld. Meanwhile Sinn continues his journey across Hell.

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS

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'Dead Zones.'

SINCE THEY WERE FIRST CREATED, THESE SITES HAVE PLAYED A **CRITICAL** ROLE IN THE ETERNAL WAR BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL, ENABLING BOTH SIDES TO MOVE THEIR OPERATIVES AROUND THE BATTLEGROUND OF EARTH.

SUCH IS THEIR IMPORTANCE THAT OVER A YEAR AGO, SPAWN CLOSED THEM ALL. INTENT ON RIDDING EARTH OF HEAVEN AND HELL'S **UNWANTED** INFLUENCE.

AN AMBITIOUS GOAL, BUT ONE DOOMED TO FAIL.

THE FIRST DEATH KNELL RANG DAYS AGO WHEN SPAWN LOST CONTROL OF OVER HALF THE DEAD ZONES TO NYX.

BEFORE TODAY IS OUT, HE WILL LOSE CONTROL OVER THE REST OF THEM, AS THE DOORWAYS CONNECTING HEAVEN AND HELL TO EARTH WILL HAVE BEEN REOPENED. THIS TIME, **PERMANENTLY!**

WE'RE COMPLETELY GETTING SCREWED BY SPAWN, ON ALL THIS!
DANIEL-- RELAX.
I CAN'T! NOT WHILE THERE'S A POISON IN MY SUIT THAT'S KILLING ME!
HE'LL BE HERE.
MAYBE. BUT HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED, WHY WOULDN'T HE DITCH US?
WE CAN'T TRUST HIM.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S MOST FRUSTRATING? IF WE'D STAYED WITH DOWNING AND NYX, THIS WOULD'VE ALL BEEN SORTED BY NOW.
WE COULD'VE USED THE STOLEN 'DEAD ZONES' AND BEEN BACK FROM HEAVEN BY NOW! AND... WE COULD'VE DONE IT WITHOUT MAKING SO MANY ENEMIES.
YOU'RE WRONG.

DOWNING AND NYX WERE NEVER GOING TO OPEN ANY ZONES FOR YOU.
YOU CAN'T CONTROL THEM, THEY KNOW THAT.
THEN WHAT'RE WE DOING? AND WHERE THE HELL ARE THESE DEAD ZONES?
YOU'RE NEAR THE EDGE OF ONE, RIGHT NOW.
THIS ONE'S A BIT LONGER ROUTE THAN THE OTHERS, BUT IT'LL GET US INTO HEAVEN UNDETECTED. WHERE WE RETRIEVE OUR TARGETS, THEN...
TARGETS? THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO FIND MY ANTIDOTE.
THERE'S A WEAPON CAPABLE OF NEUTRALIZING ANYONE POWERED BY NECROPLASM.
I BARELY SURVIVED OUR LAST FIGHT.
AND A GODDAMN LUNATIC CALLED SINN IS FIXATED ON RECLAIMING THE THRONE OF HELL, BUT TO DO THAT HE NEEDS ME TO OPEN THE DEAD ZONES FIRST.
AND, HE'S FOUND A WAY TO DRAIN MY POWERS.
SO, I NEED TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD.

SO, THIS TRIP WAS HAPPENING, WITH OR WITHOUT US?
THAT A PROBLEM?
I JUST REMEMBER YOU TALKING THAT THE DEAD ZONES NEEDED TO STAY CLOSED. INTERESTING HOW THE RULES CHANGE WHEN YOU NEED SOMETHING.
BECAUSE I MAKE THE RULES.
NOW, YOU WANT HELP OR NOT?
WE DO.
SNAP
GOOD. LET'S GET MOVING, THEN.

UNBEKNOWNST TO SPAWN, SINN HAS ALREADY BYPASSED THE DEAD ZONES, MAKING HIS WAY BACK TO HELL.
HIS RETURN HASN'T BEEN WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS, THOUGH.
UPON ARRIVAL, HE AND CADICLUS FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE 9th REALM, ONE OF THE MOST DESOLATE CORNERS OF HELL.
FROM THERE, THEY DEALT WITH A BRUTAL JOURNEY ACROSS THE PANDEMONIUM SEA, THEN THROUGH THE CITY OF SHRIEKING GLASS.
TODAY, AFTER MONTHS OF TRAVELING, THEY'VE FINALLY CROSSED OVER INTO THE 8th REALM, INCHING THEMSELVES CLOSER TO THE 1st CIRCLE, WHERE HELL'S THRONE IS LOCATED.
THESE ARE THE ENTROPY FIELDS, AREN'T THEY?
YET WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, SINN FACES A CREEPING REALIZATION THAT THIS IS NOT THE HELL HE REMEMBERS.
YES.

THIS IS WHERE MY ANCESTORS COME FROM.
REALLY? I WOULD'VE ASSUMED THE 6th REALM.
NO, BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANY OF MY FAMILY WERE LAST HERE. THEY LEFT CENTURIES AGO, AFTER MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS PLACED ON EARTH AS A SPY.
DO YOU RECALL WHAT CAMPAIGN HE WAS PART OF?
I DON'T, I JUST LEARNED ABOUT MY TRUE HERITAGE LAST YEAR.
MY MOTHER... I'M ASHAMED TO SAY, HAS GONE NATIVE. SHE'S FORGOTTEN HER RESPONSIBILITIES.
SHE'S NOT THE FIRST TO LOSE THEIR WAY. IT'S ALL TOO EASY TO BE SEDUCED BY THAT LIFE.
SHE LIED TO ME ALL THOSE YEARS, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER FOR THAT.
IF SHE'D HAD HER WAY, I'D HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE NEVER KNOWING WHO I REALLY WAS.
SORRY... I'M RAMBLING.
DON'T APOLOGIZE, CADICLUS.
ONE OF THE GREAT TRAGEDIES OF LIFE IS WE DO NOT GET TO CHOOSE OUR FAMILIES. HER FAILINGS ARE NOT YOURS.

THE TOWER OF WRATH.
CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY LORD BARBATOS, VICEROY OF THE 8th REALM.
WON'T THEY TRY STOPPING US FROM ENTERING?
YES. BECAUSE THEY DON'T YET KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES IF THEY DON'T.
STEP NO FURTHER.
YOU ARE TRESPASSING ON THE LANDS OF LORD BARBATOS. IDENTIFY YOURSELVES THEN STATE YOUR BUSINESS.

THIS IS COGLIOSTRO.
YOU WILL BEG HIS FORGIVENESS THEN TAKE US TO YOUR MASTER.
YOU ENTER WHEN I ALLOW IT.
AND I'D WATCH YOUR TONGUE BEFORE IT GETS CUT OUT.
SHUNK
I'LL REPEAT MYSELF!
RUN TO YOUR MASTER AND TELL HIM THAT COGLIOSTRO HAS RETURNED.
THAT THE KING OF HELL WISHES TO SPEAK TO HIM.

SPARK
SO, WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT NYX AND JIM DOWNING?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
THE DEAD ZONES THEY TOOK, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST LET THEM KEEP THEM, ARE YOU?
I'LL DEAL WITH THEM EVENTUALLY. RIGHT NOW THERE'S MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES.
AND WHAT IF *THEY* COME FOR YOU?
THEY'RE SMART. SO, THEY WON'T.

I MIGHT BE A BIT LATE ASKING THIS BUT IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO GO INTO HEAVEN? WHAT IF I GET STUCK THERE?
IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS, THEN ABANDON EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT HEAVEN.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.
THEY'VE BEEN CONNING HUMANITY FROM THE START.
THEY'RE THE SAME AS HELL.
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT EITHER OF THEM. I JUST WANT A CURE. THAT'S ALL.
HOW HAVE YOUR POWERS BEEN HOLDING UP? I NEED TO KNOW HOW HARD TO PUSH ON YOU THIS MISSION.
THEY'VE BEEN FINE. NO DRAMATIC CHANGES.
YOUR POWERS STILL WORK INSIDE THESE ZONES. INTERESTING.
WHO CREATED YOUR SUIT?
HONESTLY I DON'T REALLY KNOW
GUYS!?

When Spawn closed all the dead zones, he never thought about just how far the impact of his actions would have on others.
And the horrible choices they would need to make.
Enter Sandalphon: First Herald of the Magisterium

THE EXACT MOMENT THAT THIS DEAD ZONE CLOSED SHUT, TEN OF HEAVEN'S WARRIORS HAD THE GRAVE MIS-FORTUNE TO BE PASSING THROUGH IT
THEY ENTERED NOT REALIZING THEY'D NEVER SEE DAYLIGHT AGAIN
TRAPPED IN THE BLACK VOID BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, THE TEN INITIALLY TRIED WORKING TOGETHER TO FIND A WAY OF ESCAPING THEIR PRISON
BUT AS THE DAYS AND WEEKS PASSED MADNESS QUICKLY SPREAD AND THEY SOON TURNED ON EACH OTHER

ONE BY ONE, THE WARRIORS FELL
UNTIL ONLY SANDALPHON REMAINED STANDING.
IN SOME WAYS, HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE UNLUCKIEST
SMASH!
WHILE THE OTHERS' SUFFERING ENDED WITH THEIR DEATHS, HE WAS LEFT IN SOLITUDE. THE PAST YEAR, THAT ISOLATION SHATTERED THE LAST OF HIS SANITY.

HEAVEN AND HELL KNEW THIS COULD HAPPEN SO, TO PREVENT EITHER SIDE FROM GAINING AN ADVANTAGE, THEY INTRODUCED A FAILSAFE ONE THAT PREVENTS ANY AGENTS FROM USING THEIR POWERS INSIDE A DEAD ZONE
FORTUNATELY FOR SPAWN...
FOOM
THOSE RESTRICTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO HAUNT

WITH THEIR VICTORY, THEY FORGE ONWARD.
WOW.
AND DESPITE WHAT SPAWN SAID, DANIEL KILGORE STILL FEELS A SENSE OF AWE WHEN HE FINALLY ARRIVES IN HEAVEN
EVEN IF THE SIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM BEARS LITTLE RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT HE STUDIED IN THE SEMINARY
WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?
I'M NOT SURE. THIS LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.

ALMOST
GET YOU
AS SPAWN
HAS HELL
FALLEN SO FAR
THAT IT WOULD
DEGRADE ITSELF
BY PARTNERING
WITH A
HAUNT?

MY APOLOGIES AGAIN FOR MY SENTRY'S BEHAVIOR. HIS INSOLENCE WILL BE DEALT WITH SWIFTLY.
WHILE YOUR REAPPEARANCE IS, OF COURSE, WELCOMED, MY LORD, I'LL ADMIT THAT THIS IS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE.
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, BUT GIVEN THE ZONES ARE STILL LOCKED. HOW DID YOU MAKE IT BACK?
THAT'S A MATTER FOR ANOTHER DAY, BARBATOS.
FOR NOW, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SENTRY. WHY DIDN'T HE KNOW WHO I WAS? HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE, AS WE'VE TRAVELED ACROSS THE 8th REALM.
AN UNACCEPTABLE DISGRACE, I ASSURE YOU, MY LORD.
BUT AS YOU UNDERSTAND, IT HAS BEEN QUITE A LENGTH OF TIME SINCE YOU WERE LAST HERE.
HOW LONG IS THAT?
OH, I DON'T KNOW AN EXACT NUMBER.
IT'S EASILY BEEN OVER 500 YEARS.

JUDGING FROM YOUR EXPRESSION, THOUGH, I GATHER THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME HAS NOT PASSED ON EARTH?
THAT BLAME THEN LIES AT THE FEET OF WHO-EVER CLOSED THE DEAD ZONES TO BEGIN WITH.
TIME MOVES DIFFERENTLY HERE THAN IT DOES ON EARTH, AS YOU KNOW.
BUT RECENT EVENTS *COMPLETELY* DESTABILIZED THE CONTINUIM--
--AND NOW IT IS ACCELERATING FASTER THAN EVER BEFORE.
WHERE ARE ASMODEOUS? INCUBOR? HALPHUS?
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD THOSE NAMES. IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR YOU TO ASSUME MOST OF YOUR OLD GUARD ARE NOW DEAD.
ALL, EXCEPT YOU.
WE ALL DID WHAT WE HAD TO, TO SURVIVE.

SURVIVING AND NOT MUCH MORE, IT SEEMS. HOW DID YOU END HERE EXACTLY? I RECALL YOU DECLARING THAT YOU'D RATHER DIE THAN RESIDE IN THE 8th REALM...
500 YEARS CHANGES A LOT OF THINGS, OLD FRIEND. THE GAME HAS CHANGED.
NEW PLAYERS, NEW ALLIANCES--
AND--NEW *LEADERS.*
OH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK. YOU COULDN'T SERIOUSLY HAVE EXPECTED HELL TO REMAIN IN STASIS THIS WHOLE TIME. EVEN IF YOU'D ONLY BEEN GONE A WEEK, IT WAS INEVITABLE OTHERS WOULD STEP IN TO FILL THE VOID.
AND YOU WERE ONE OF THOSE... ***OLD FRIEND?***
YOU DO ME A DISSERVICE, MY LORD. I WOULDN'T ***DREAM*** OF SUCH DISLOYALTY.
BUT, I WOULD REMIND YOU TO BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ACCUSE, YOU'LL NEED ME AT YOUR SIDE IF YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF NAVIGATING THIS NEW HIERARCHY.
SPARE ME YOUR GLOATING, BARBATOS, JUST TELL ME WHO I'M UP AGAINST. WHO SITS ON MY THRONE?
THAT'S A COMPLICATED QUESTION RIGHT NOW, BUT THE SHORT ANSWER IS THAT IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ANY CLAIM TO IT...

YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO CONTEND
WITH HELL'S CURRENT RULER.
CATACLYSM.

1:4:2:7

SPAWNING GROUND PRESENTS:

MAILBAG

Hi Mr. McFarlane, My name is Adam A., and I am a huge fan of your work that you produce, especially the drawing tutorials on Youtube. The Ghost Rider drawing you did a while ago was definitely my favorite video tutorial.

I was reading Spawn 337 tonight, and I saw some of the fan art at the back of the comic so I thought i'd send my drawings in. I attached my drawing of Spawn in pen, color version I did in Photoshop, and a screenshot of both of them side by side. I hope you like the drawing.

Sidenote - I really appreciate all the work that you and your company do to bring high quality comic books, toys, and more to pop culture. My favorite Spawn series right now is King Spawn. I love the storyline and artwork! Keep up the great work. Thank you for your time.

-ADAM A.

Adam, thanks so much for sharing your awesome Spawn art. I dig that you shared both the black & white and the color versions. I have to say that I really like your line work on this piece. Please keep at it, and you may be on a cover someday!

-THOMAS

I have been reading Spawn for over 20 years. As all things it has slowed at times. But in recent years Spawn has started getting back to being more unpredictable and I like that. I remember you saying year's ago once a character is dead they are dead. Yet we have seen a few return. It would be great if Angela could some how return. I hope Gunslinger and Scorched and all the others are around a long time. I'm back to looking forward to my trips to the comic shop. Any chance of Medieval Spawn having his own book again?
Thanks

-JAMES B.

Thanks for sticking around for 20 years, James! Certainly, after 300+ issues, there have been some ups and downs, but I agree that we are currently seeing some of the best Spawn comics since the beginning. As far as characters coming back after they die, for the most part, we are going to keep it that way, but if a writer can come up with a compelling story as to why a character could/would come back, they might just become the exception to the rule. I personally would love to see Medieval get his own title. So maybe when the right story rolls around he will. And as far as Angela, don't hold your breath.

-THOMAS

Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawningground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S UNIVERSE?

DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES:

SPAWN

KING SPAWN

SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER

MARCH 2023

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APRIL 2023

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